The State Government can avail of Central assistance for various projects within the framework of the schemes in operation with the concerned Ministries and subject to the availability of resources, through properly formulated projects.

UN Human Development Index

998. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India still belongs to the bottom fourth of the world's nations and ranks 127 out of 173 nations in the UN Human Development Index;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 56 per cent of our households have no power and 9 out of 10 pregnant Indian women are under-nourished and half of our children grow up stunted, as per statistics captioned. The growth mirage of the National Herald of 7th May, 2004; and

(c) if so, how far these statistics are factually correct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) India had a rank of 127 out of 175 countries of the world as per the Human Development Report (HDR) 2003 brought out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As per the HDR, 2004 launched recently by the UNDP, India maintains its ranking at 127 out of 177 countries and is grouped among the medium human development countries. The value of India's Human Development Index (HDI) calculated and published in the various HDFs being brought out by the UNDP since 1990 has, however, shown sustained improvement over the years.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001 data, 55.8 per cent of the households in the country are electrified. Out of the balance 44.2 per cent households not electrified, 43.9 per cent households used sources other than electricity for lighting such as kerosene, solar energy and other sources. The data on prevalence of anaemia in pregnant women available from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) revealed that in the year 2001,84.9 per cent of pregnant women had iron deficiency anaemia in the country. As per available data, the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years of age has varied from 45.5 per cent to 56.5 per cent.